



Outpatient ED Utilization in Massachusetts, FY04



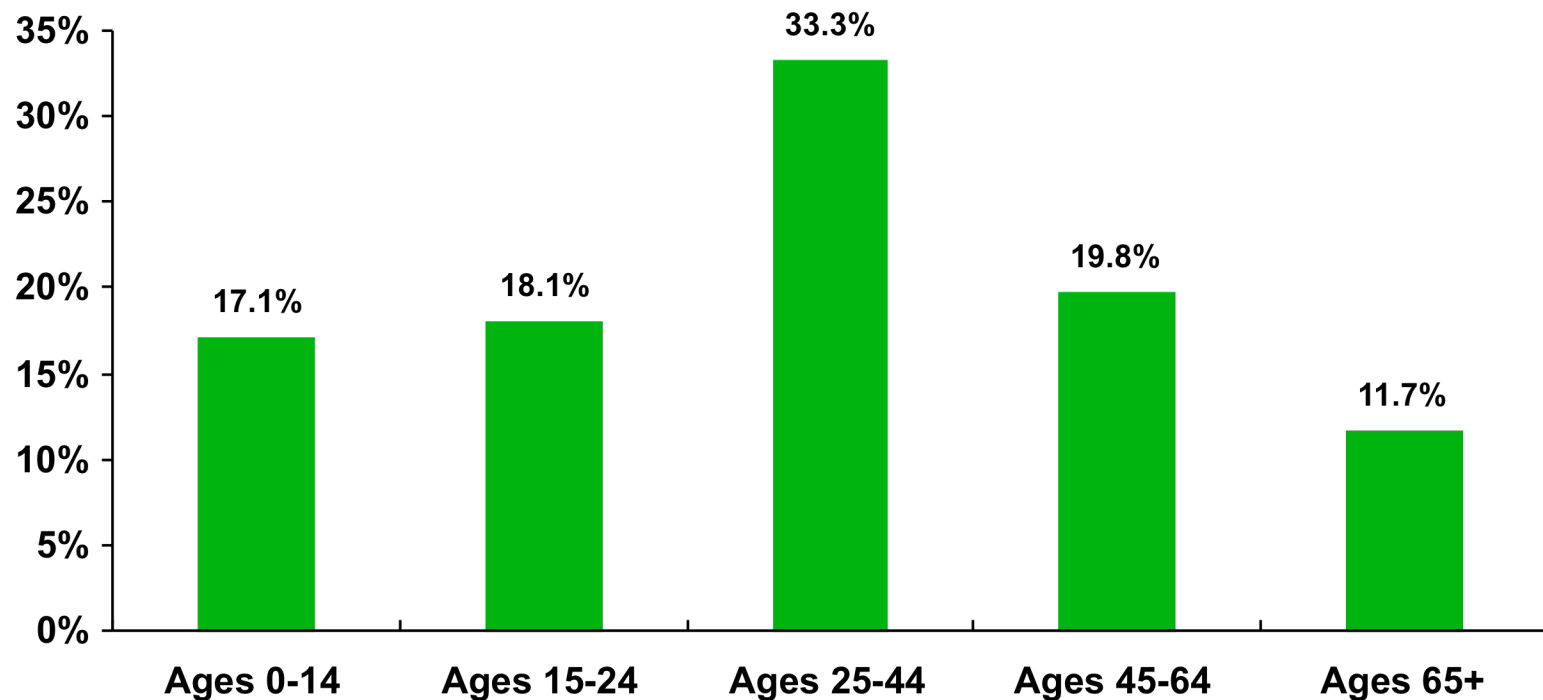
Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy



Massachusetts Outpatient ED Database

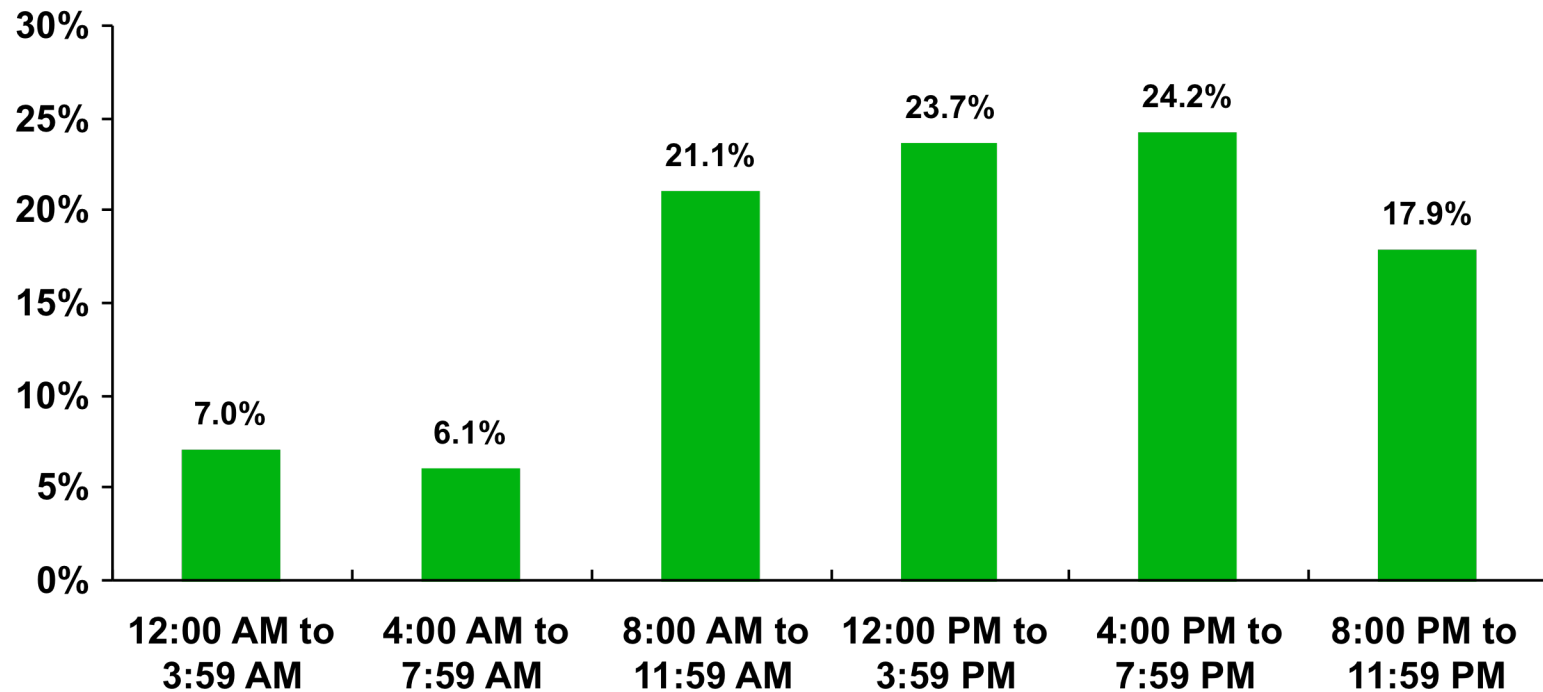
- Massachusetts hospitals report data per outpatient ED visit to the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy.
- The ED database includes information only for those patients who are *not* admitted to the reporting hospital as inpatients or outpatient observation patients.

Distribution of Outpatient ED Visits by Age, FY04



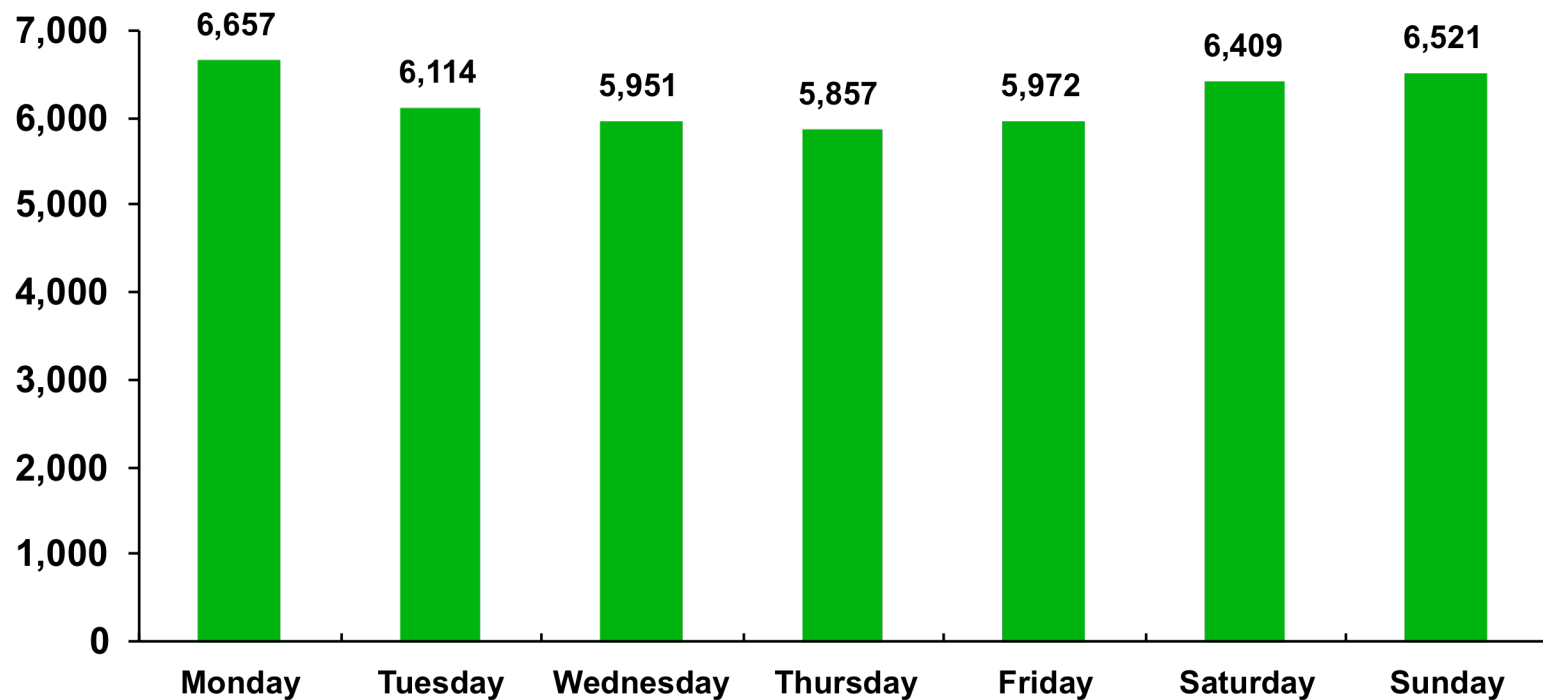
In FY04, the greatest number of outpatient ED visits (758,557 encounters) were made by patients ages 25-44. Visits for those over age 65 may be under-represented because they are more likely to be admitted to the hospital from the ED.

Distribution of Outpatient ED Volume by Time of Registration, FY04



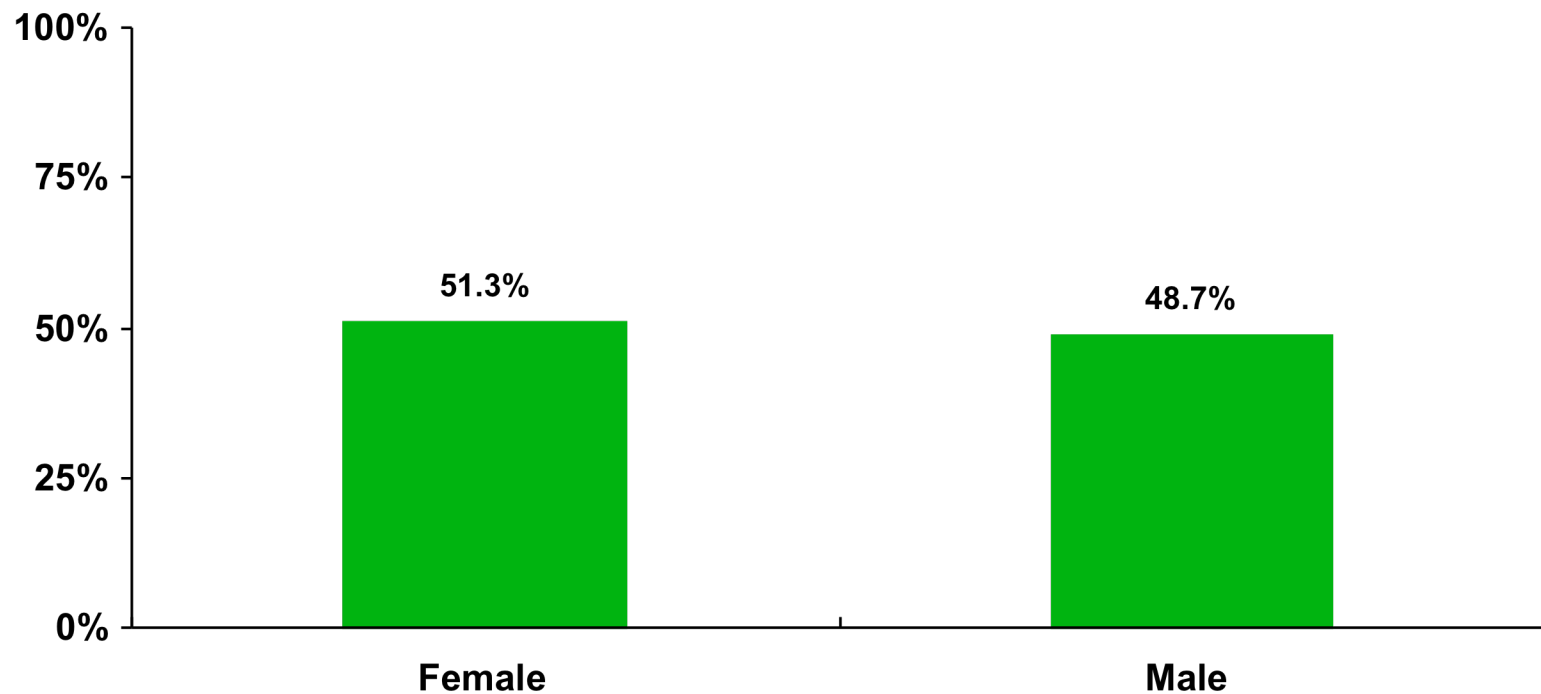
In FY04, Massachusetts EDs handled over 6,000 outpatient visits per day. Nearly 70% of these visits occurred between 8 AM and 8 PM, while about 13% occurred between midnight and 8 AM.

Mean Number of Outpatient ED Visits by Day of Week, FY04



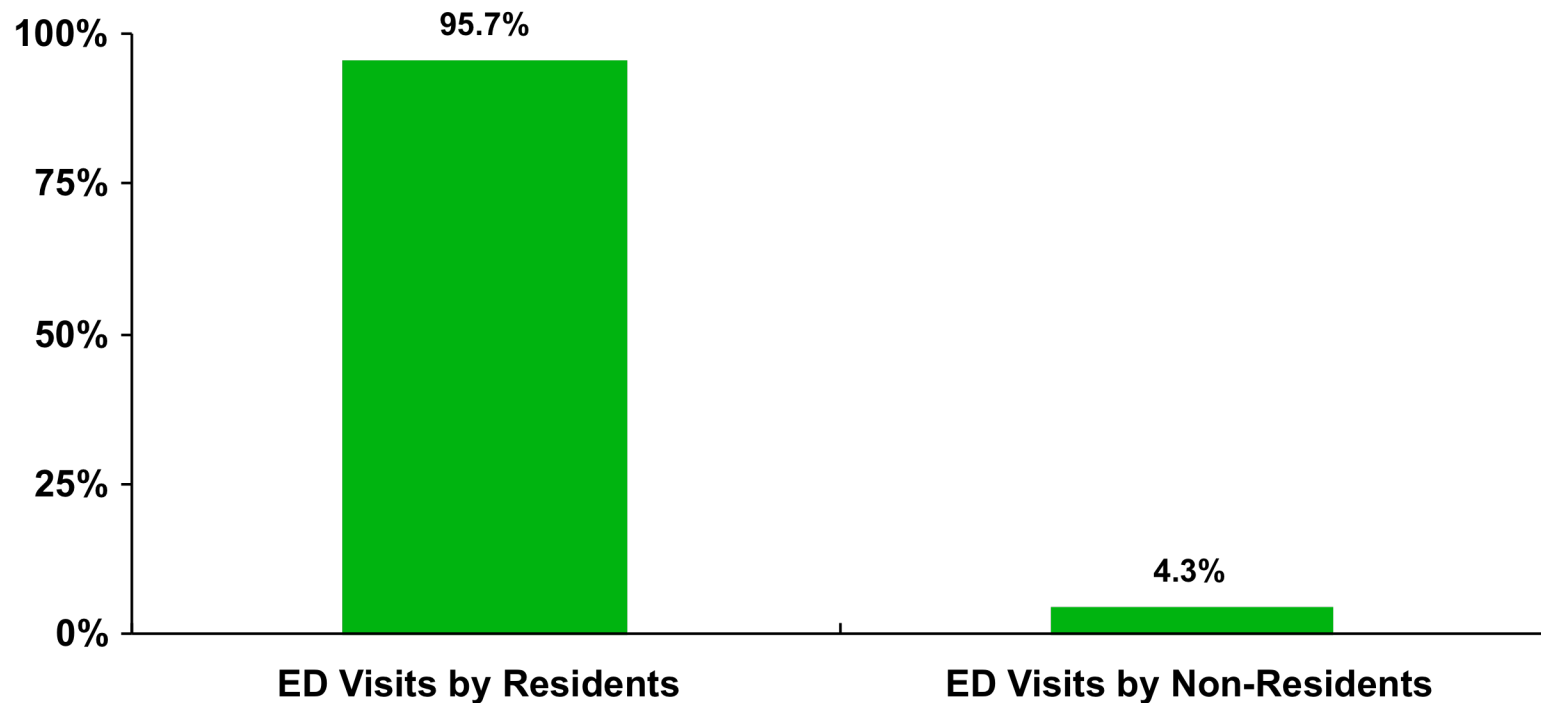
In Massachusetts, there were an average of 6,212 outpatient ED visits per day in FY04; Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays were busiest.

Percent of Outpatient ED Visits by Gender, FY04



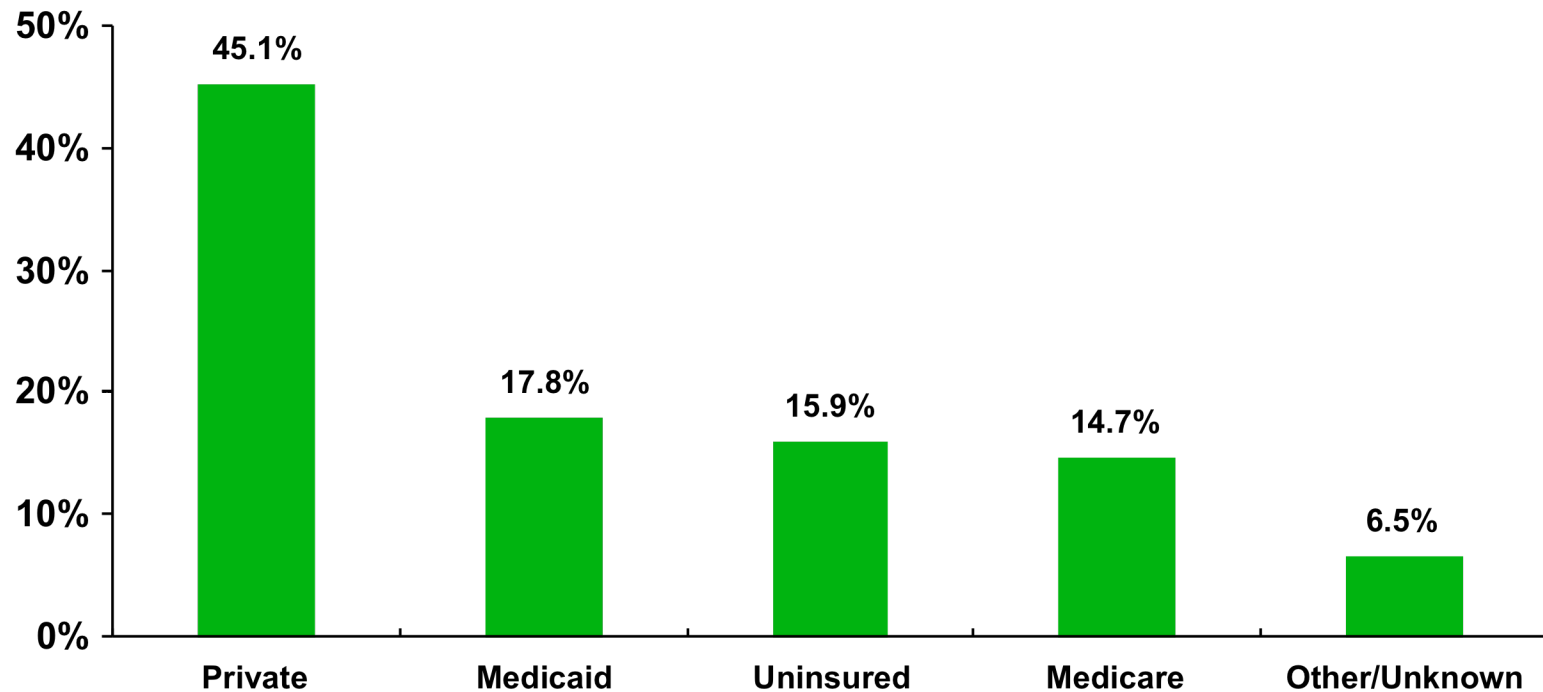
Overall, females and males were almost equally likely to visit the ED in FY04.

Percent of Outpatient ED Visits by Residents and Non-Residents, FY04



In FY04, less than 5% of Massachusetts outpatient ED visits were made by non-residents.

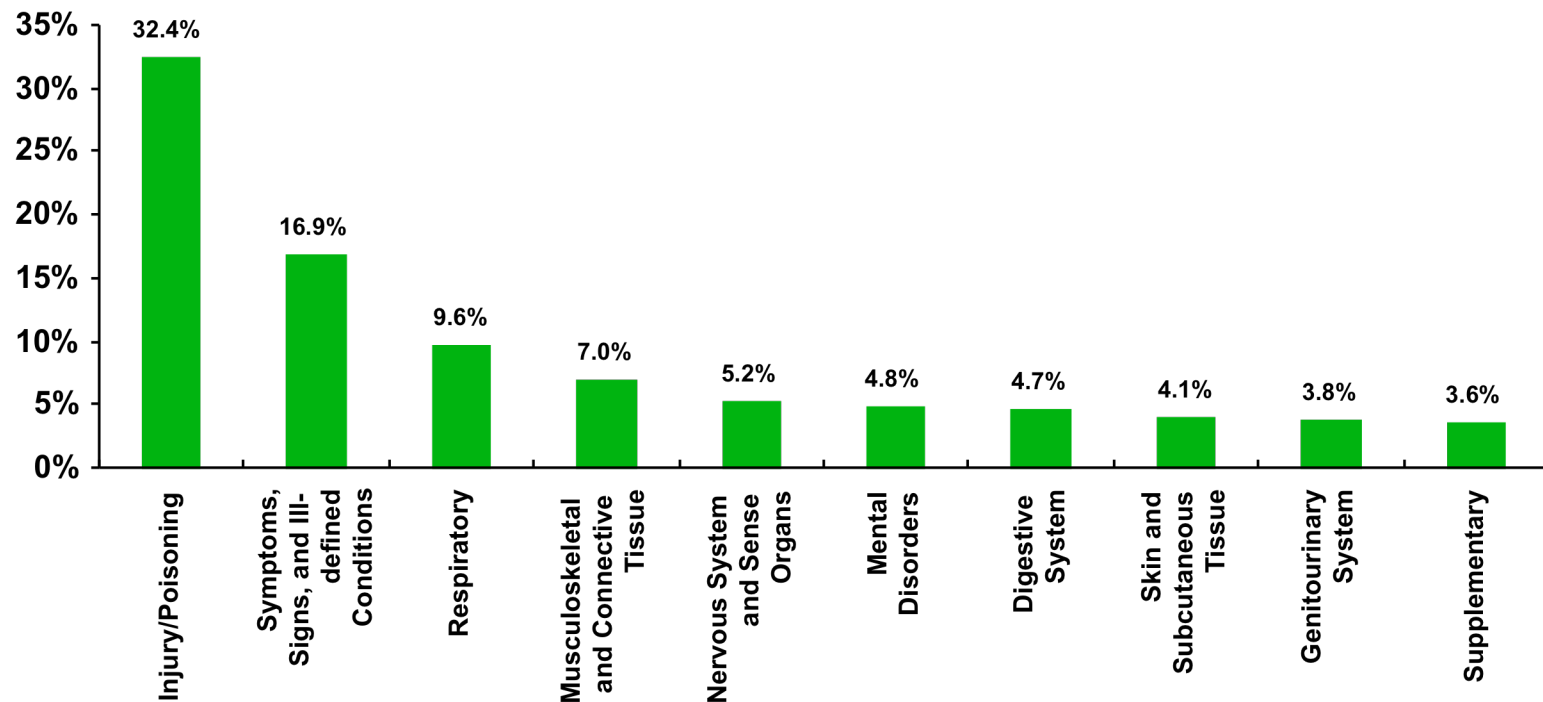
Percent of Outpatient ED Visits by Source of Insurance, FY04



The greatest percentage of outpatient ED visits were covered by private insurance followed by Medicaid. The uninsured represented 7.4% of the population, but nearly 16% of ED visits in FY04.

Note: Medicare ED users may be under-represented because they are more likely to be admitted to the hospital from the ED.

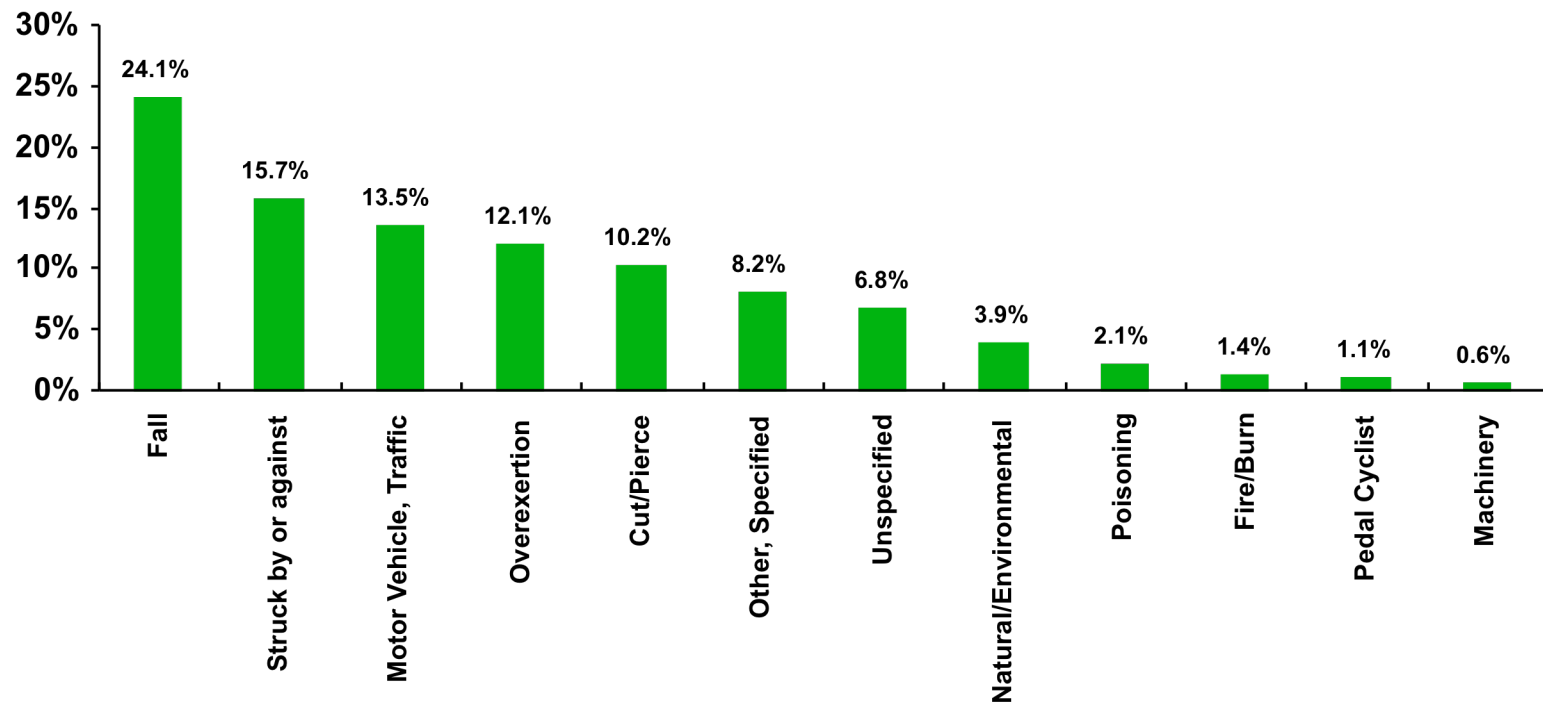
Percent of Outpatient ED Visits by Top 10 Major Diagnosis Classifications,* FY04



In FY04, one-third of outpatient ED visits resulted from injuries; another 17% were generally categorized as “symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions. Respiratory diagnoses were also common.

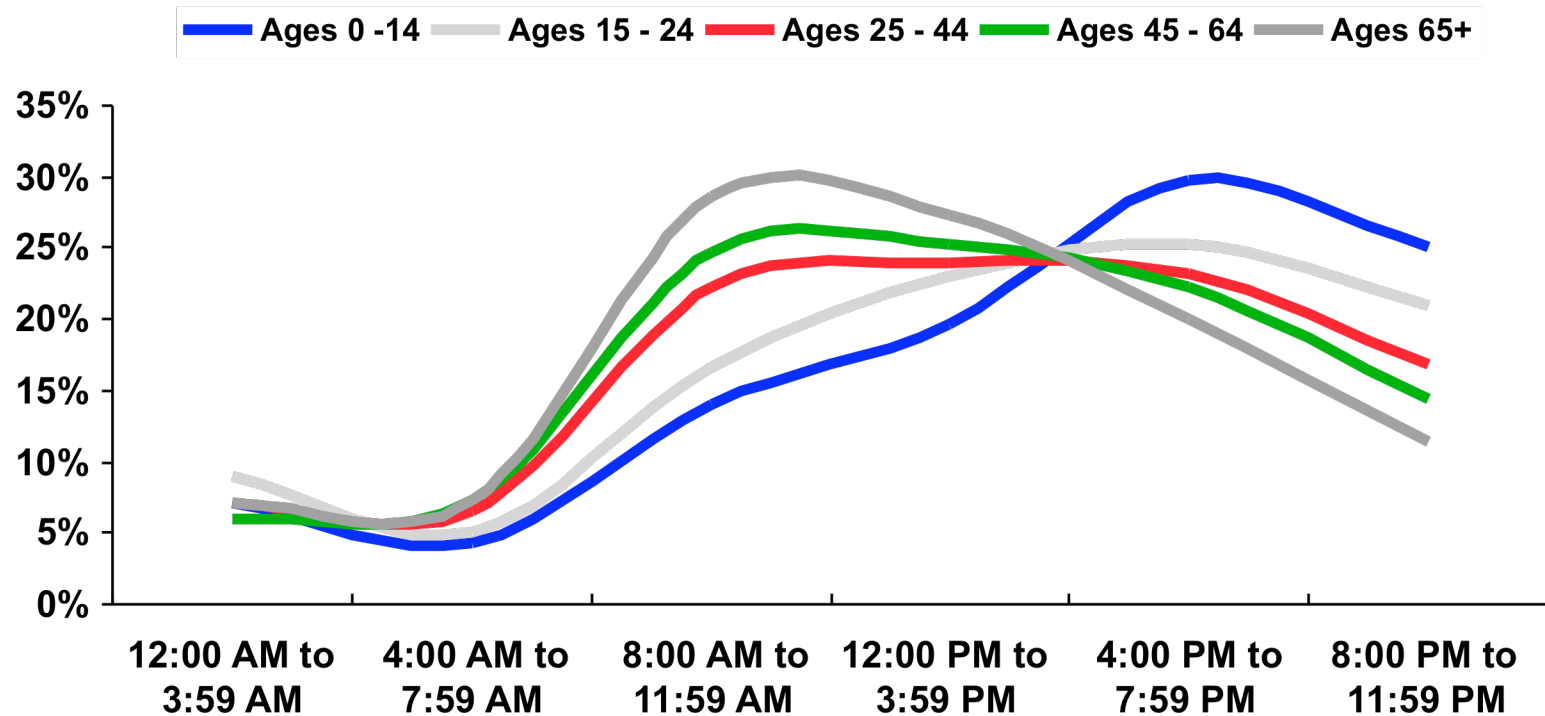
*These diagnoses were classified according to CDC-developed categories created for the National Hospital Ambulatory Care Survey.

Percent of Injury-Related Outpatient ED Visits, FY04



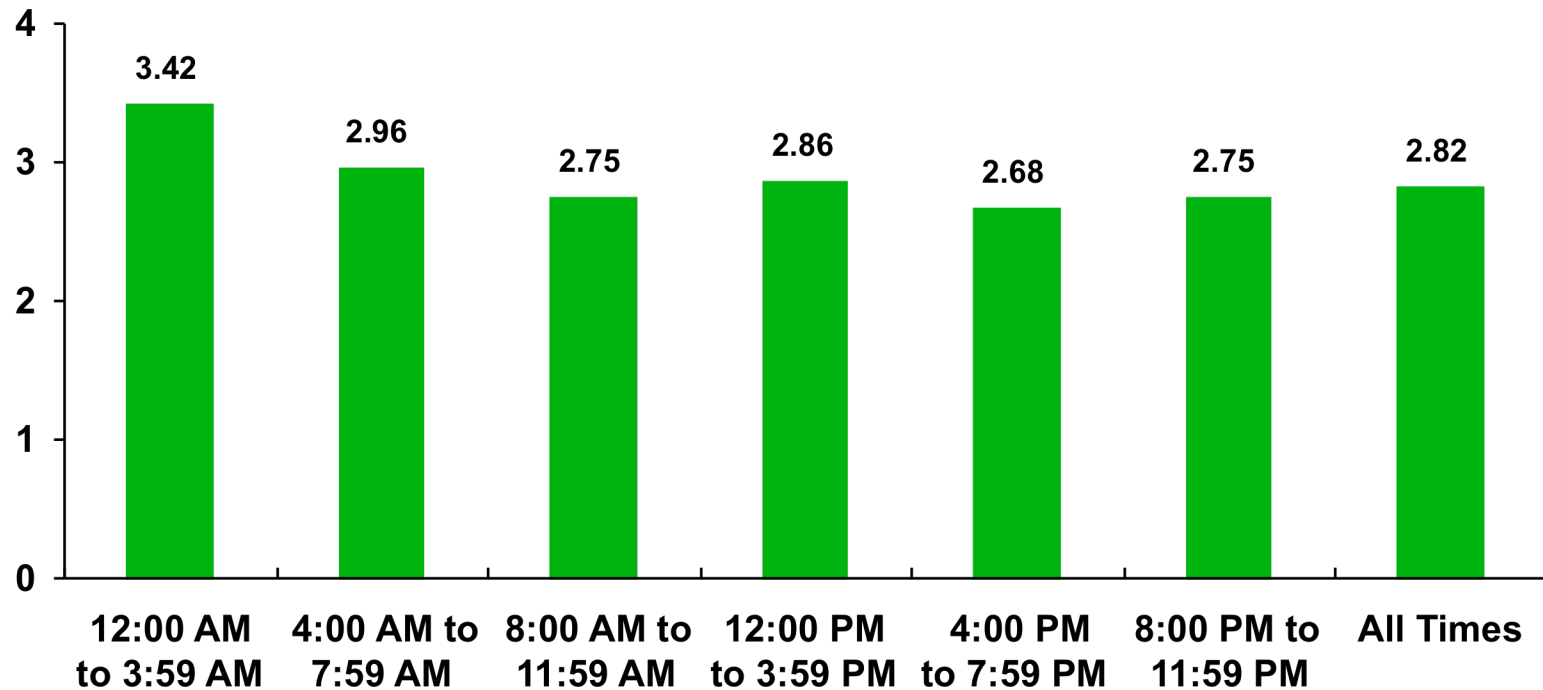
Almost one-third of outpatient visits were injury related. Of these visits, 24% were due to falls and another 16% resulted from being struck by or against an object. Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 14% of injury-related visits.

Percent of Outpatient ED Visits by Age Group and Time of Day, FY04



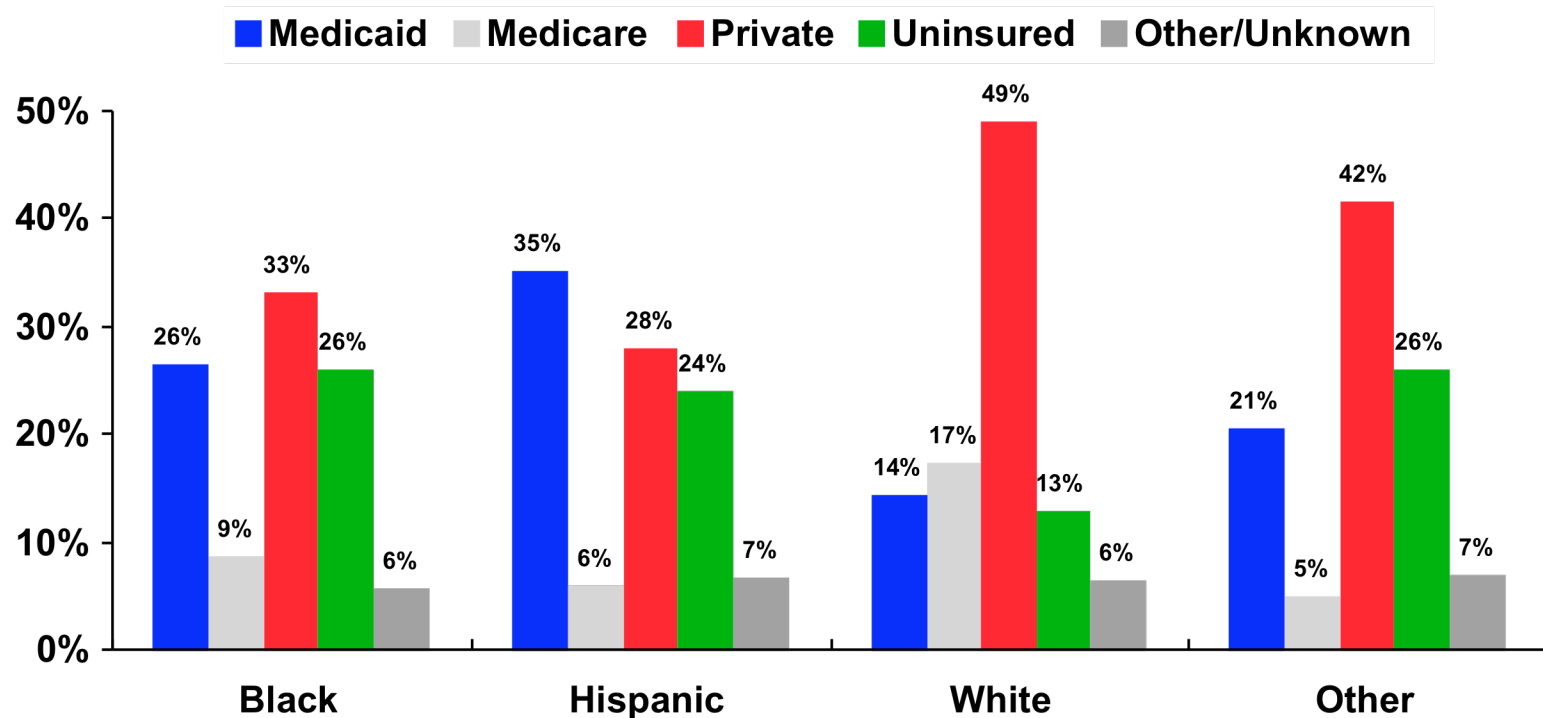
Nearly 70% of outpatient ED visits were made between 8 AM and 8 PM. Seniors were most likely to visit the ED between 8 AM and noon, while children and adolescents were most likely to visit the ED between 4 PM and 8 PM.

Mean Length of Stay (hours) for Outpatient ED Visits by Time of Registration, FY04



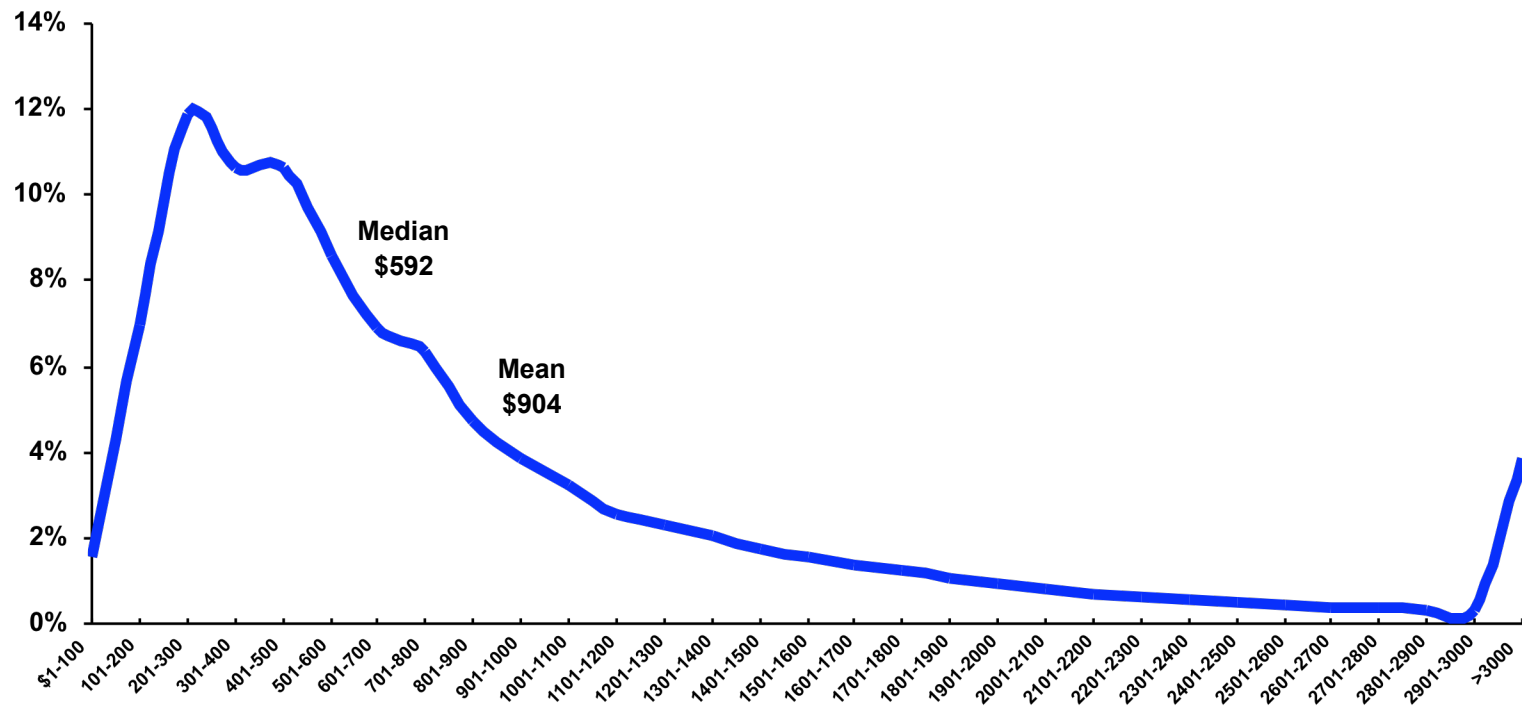
The mean length of stay in Massachusetts EDs was approximately three hours in FY04. Longer stays usually occurred in the early morning hours and shorter stays were more common in the busy afternoon and evening hours.

Payer Distribution of Outpatient ED Visits by Race/Ethnicity, FY04

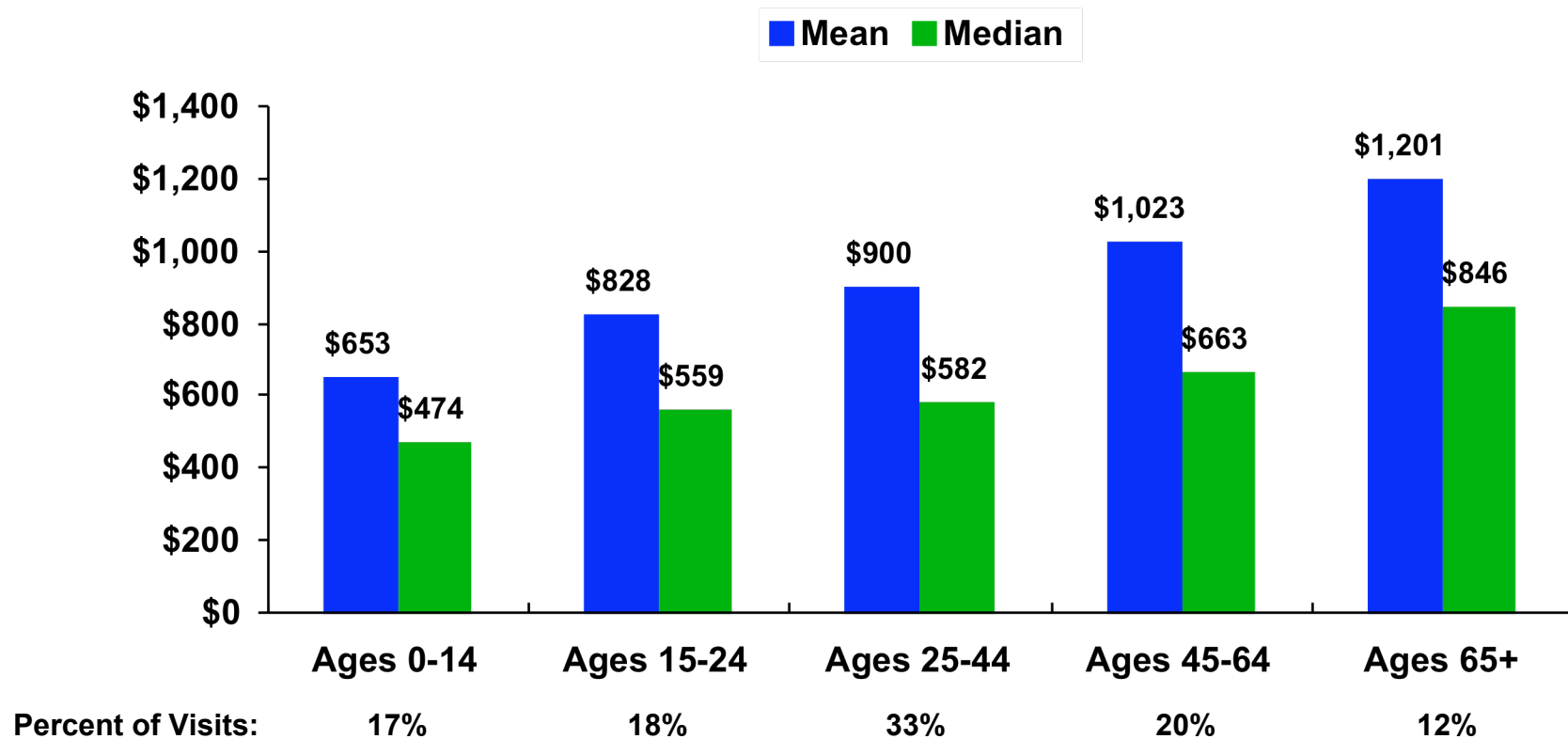


The proportion of visits covered by different payer types varied widely among racial/ethnic groups. The majority of ED outpatient visits were covered by private insurance.

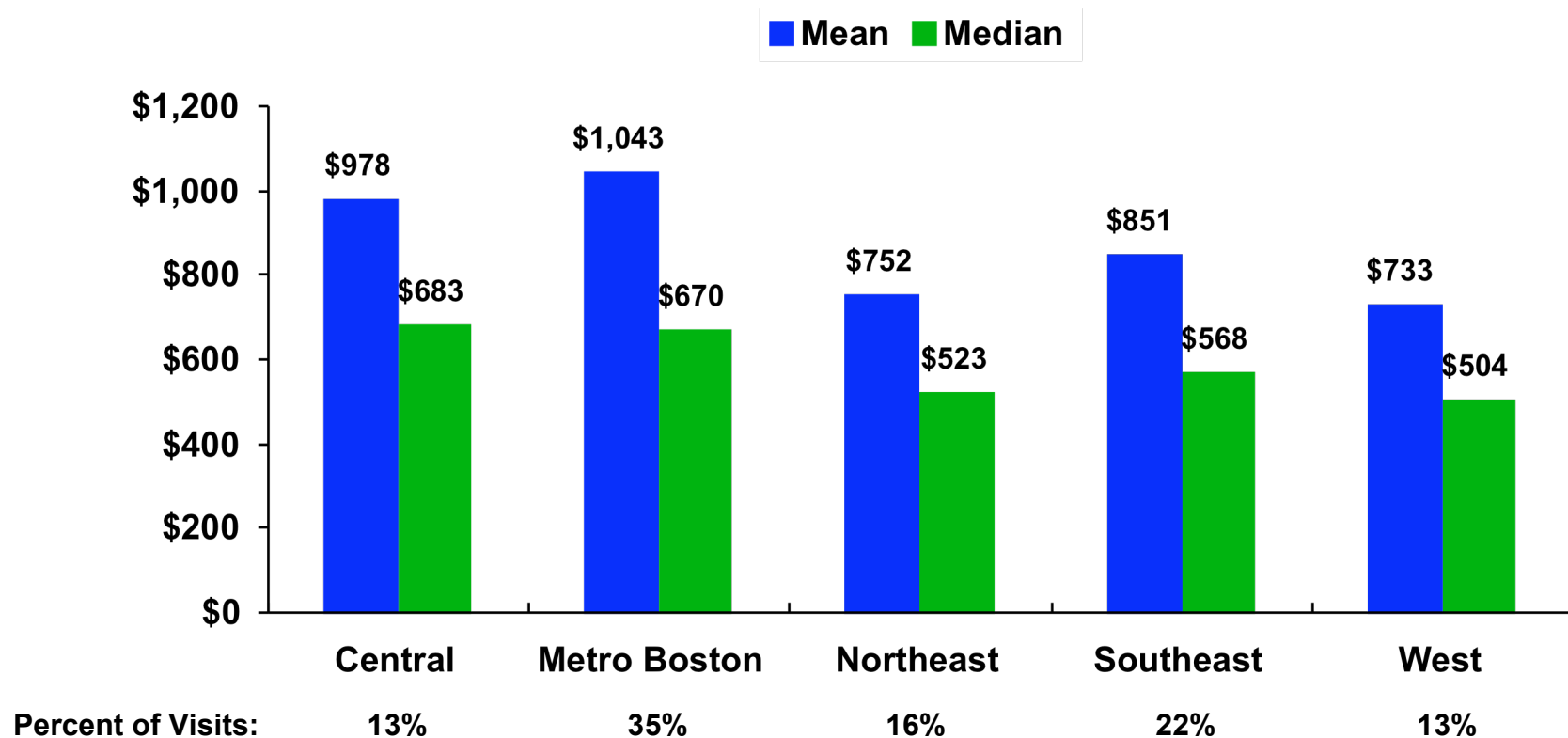
Distribution of Outpatient ED Charges per Visit, FY04



Mean and Median Charges for Outpatient ED Visits by Age, FY04

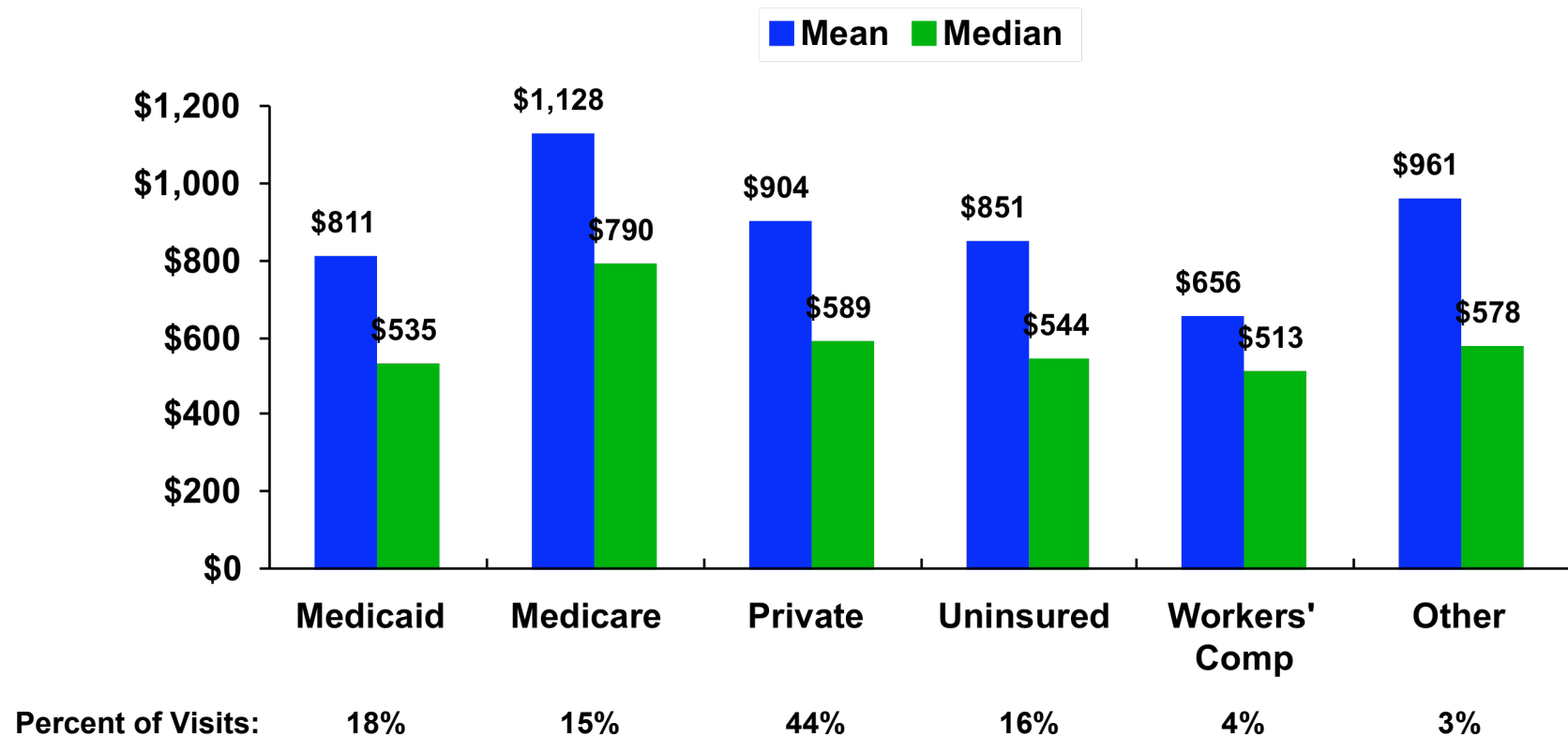


Mean and Median Charges for Outpatient ED Visits by Hospital Region, FY04

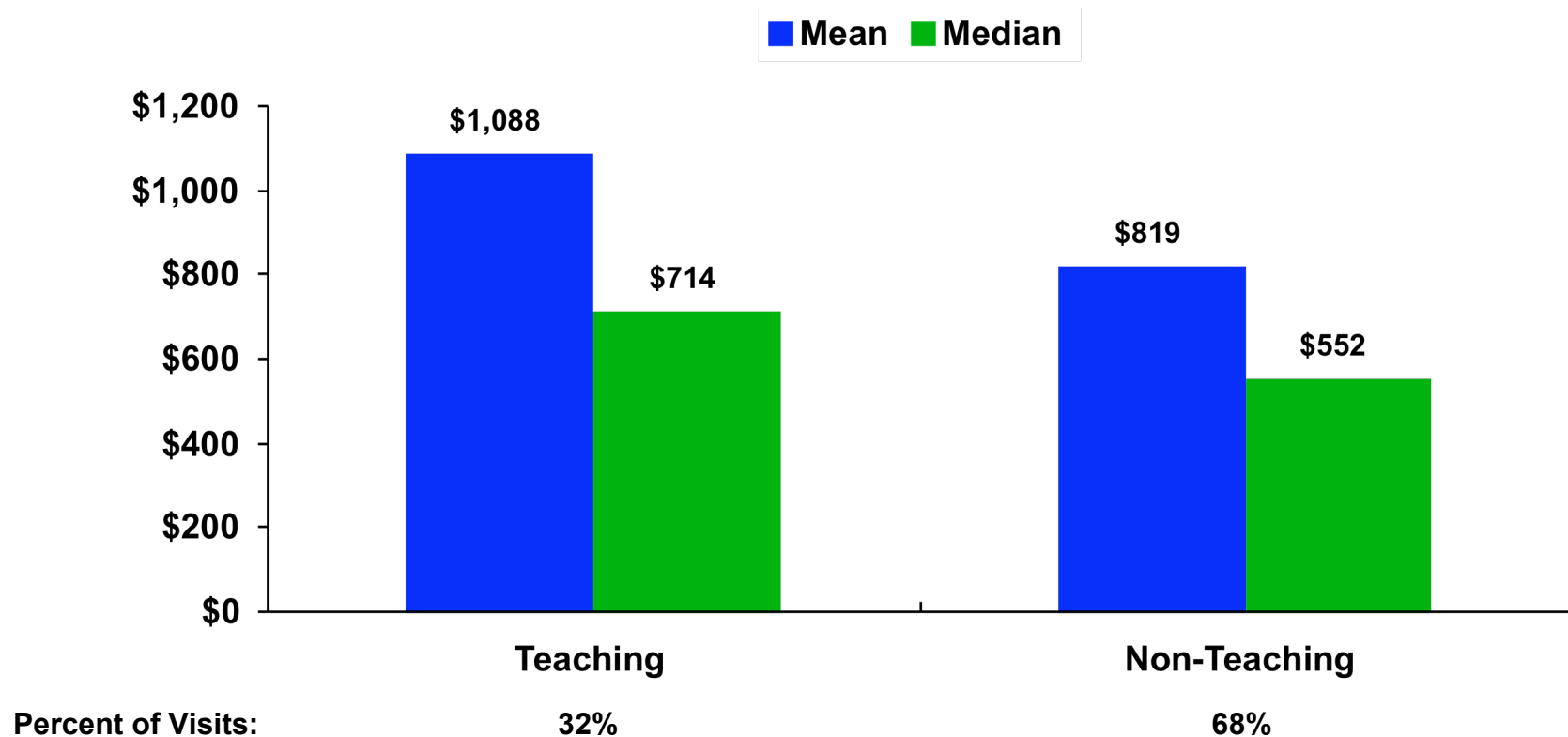


ED visit charges were higher on average in the metro Boston area and lower in western Massachusetts.

Outpatient ED Charges by Source of Insurance, FY04

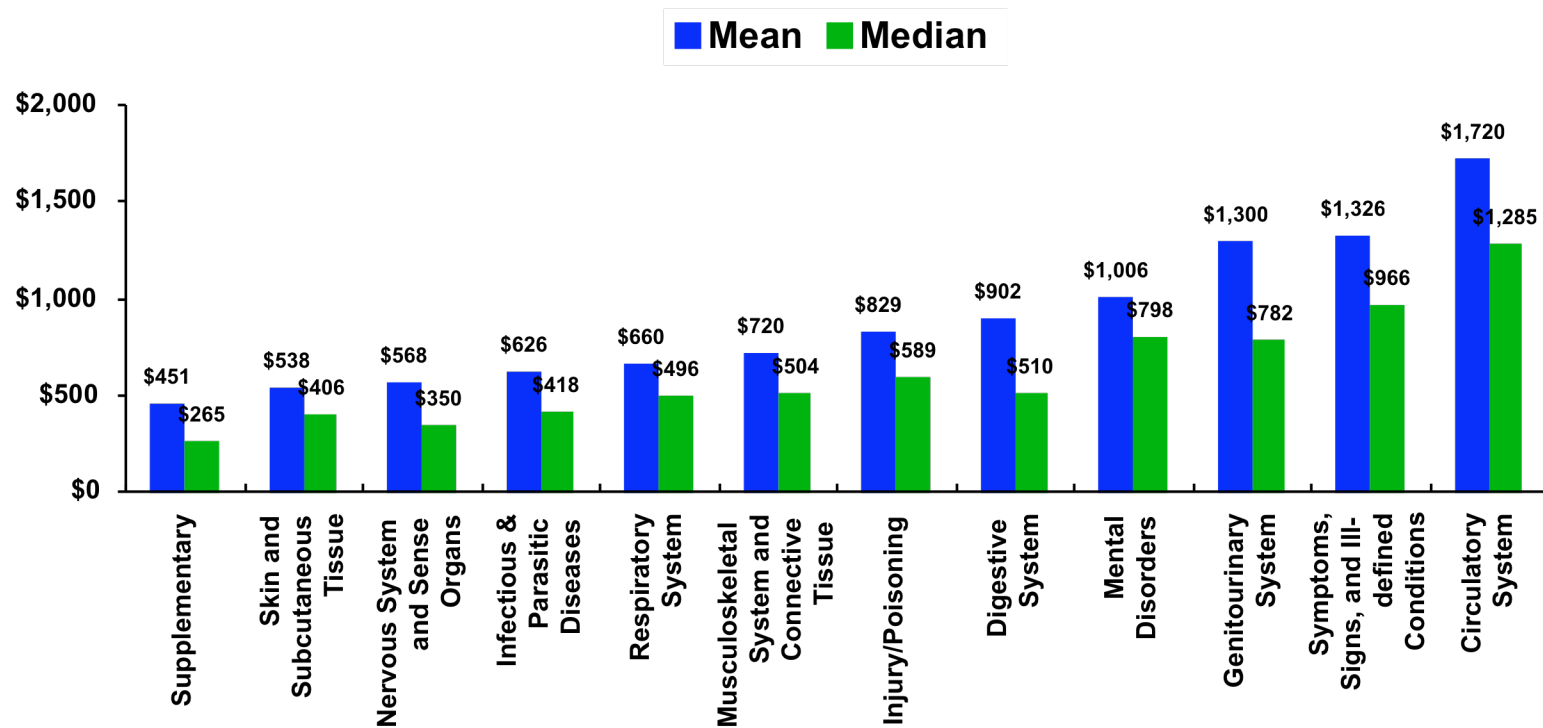


Mean and Median Charges for Outpatient ED Visits by Hospital Teaching Status, FY04



Approximately one-third of all outpatient ED visits occurred in teaching hospitals, which charge substantially more on average per visit than do non-teaching hospitals.

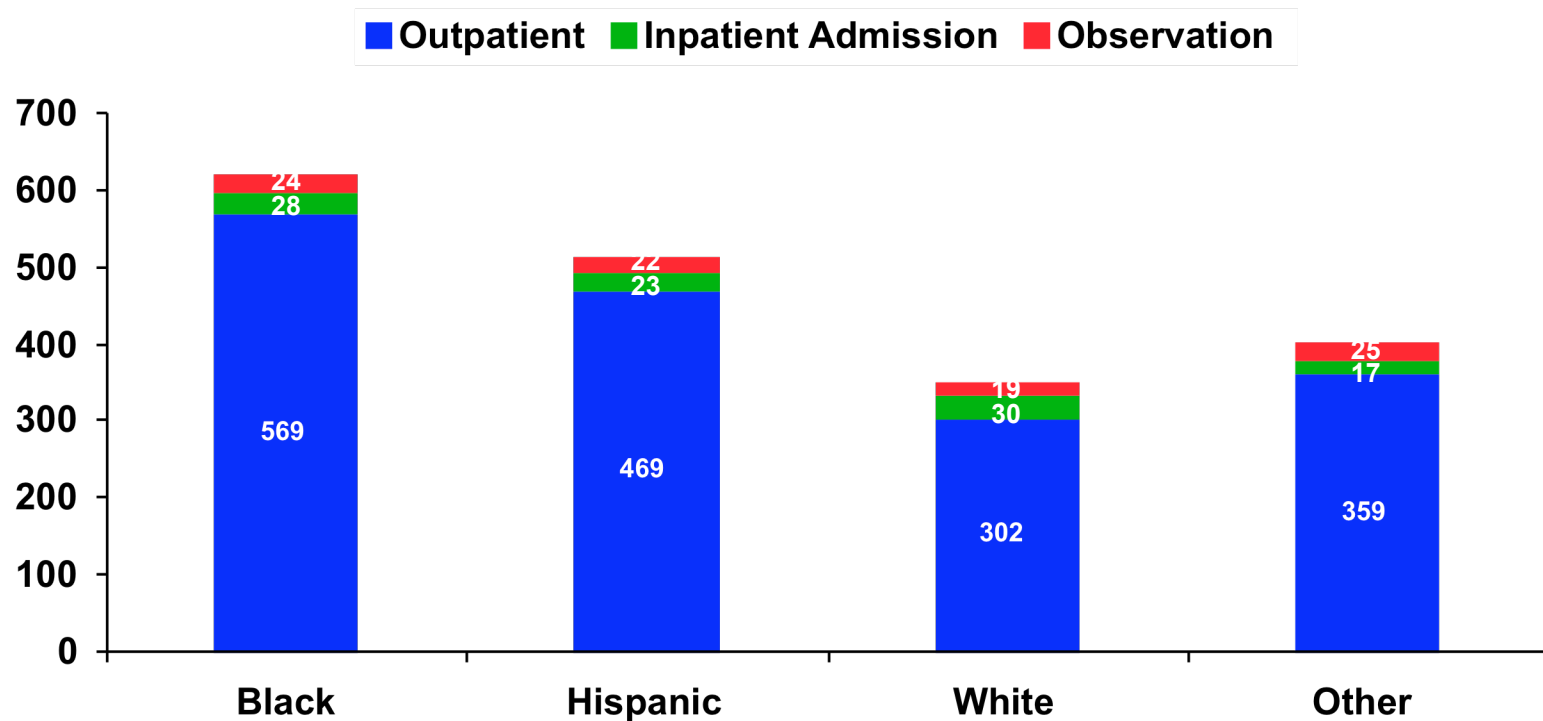
Outpatient ED Charges per Visit by Major Diagnosis Group, FY04



ED charges varied substantially across diagnosis groups.

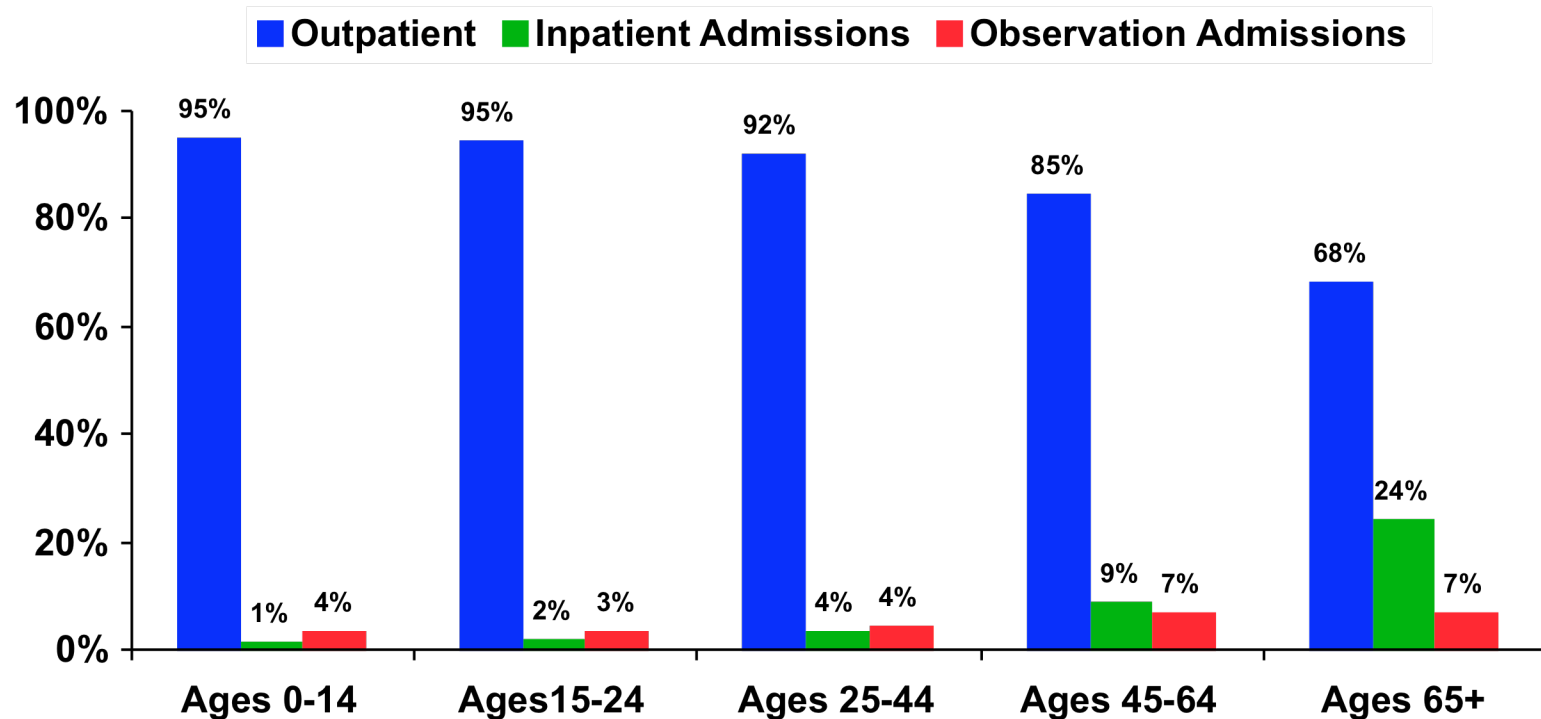
Note: Diagnosis groups that had 1% or less of total ED visits were omitted from this chart.

ED visits per 1,000 Residents by Race/Ethnicity and Disposition, FY04



ED visit rates were highest among black residents.

Distribution of ED Visits by Age Group, FY04



Less than 10% of ED visits resulted in an inpatient admission for patients under age 65. However, over 24% of ED visits for patients over age 65 resulted in an inpatient admission.

Note: Data were derived from multiple databases.



Contact Information

For additional information regarding analysis of ED data collected by the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP), please contact:

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